

House Bill 546  
March 27, 2013  
Presented by Mike Korn  
Senate Local Government Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Mike Korn, Assistant Chief for Law Enforcement of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here on behalf of the Director to offer FWP's support of House Bill 546.

We believe that HB 546 is an important aviation safety bill. As you're probably aware, FWP regularly makes low-level wildlife survey, fish planting and law enforcement flights throughout the state. By its very nature, this is difficult and inherently dangerous flying. As such, unmarked obstacles have the potential to pose significant threats to our pilots and their passengers. We are familiar with these risks firsthand as a number of years ago we lost game warden pilot Bill Ammerman when the Supercub he was flying in the course of his work collided with a power line along the Milk River outside of Hindsdale. Given the number of meteorological evaluation towers currently in place and the potential for more being erected in the future, we believe HB 546 will help ensure that the towers are able to serve their purposes while at the same time, contributing to a safer flying environment.

We support HB 546 and urge its passage.